



GREAT FREEDOM FIGHTERS

• Lokamanya Tilak • Mahatma Gandhi • Veer Savarkar • Subhas Chandra Bose • Bhagat Singh





The route to your roots

LOKAMANYA TILAK

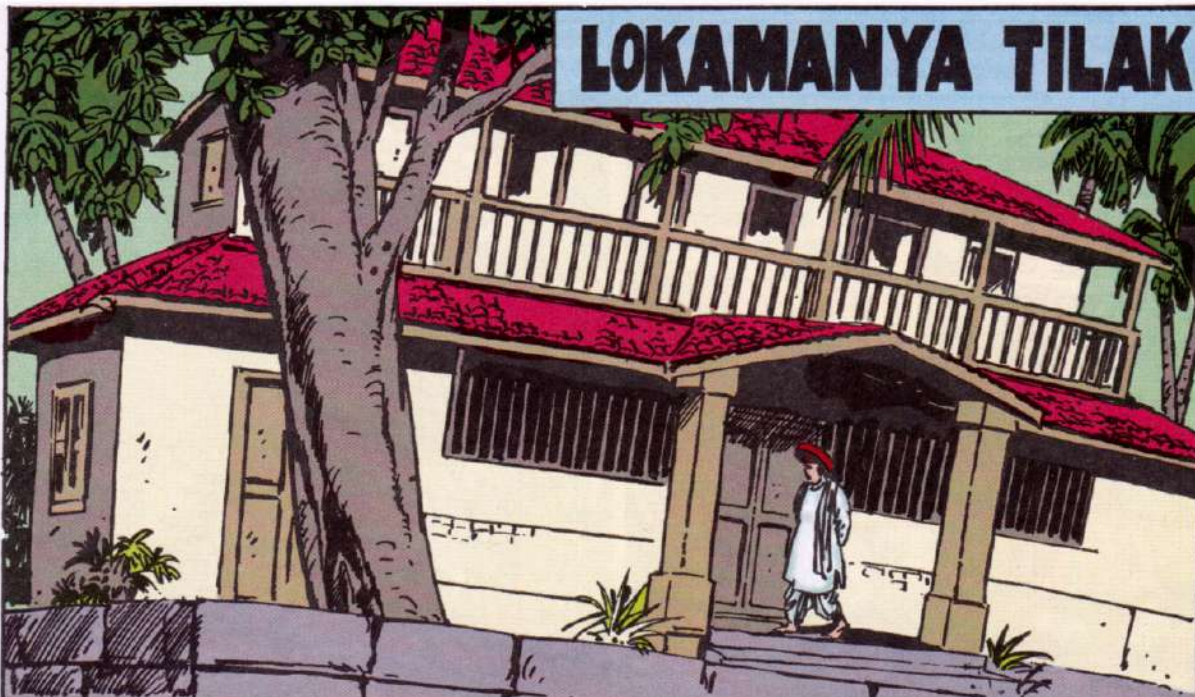
'Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it' -- this clarion call was given by Bal Gangadhar Tilak. He was a towering figure in the Indian Independence movement. A nationalist to the core, he believed strongly that modern education would inculcate patriotism and self-respect in the people. His inspiring speeches and writing landed Tilak in jail several times. But this did not dampen his spirit or will to cast off the yoke of foreign rule from his motherland.

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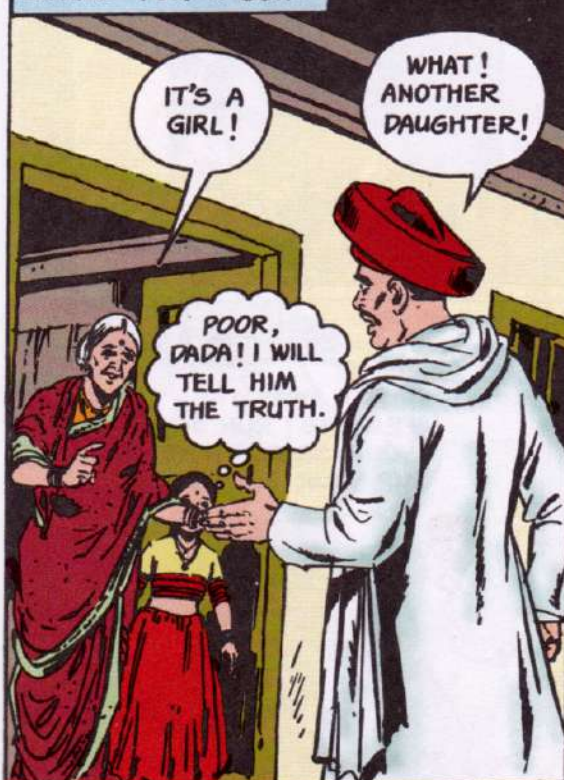
Cover illustration by: P. G. Sirur



LOKAMANYA TILAK

ON JULY 23, 1856, GANGADHAR PANT TILAK, THE HEADMASTER OF THE LOCAL MARATHI SCHOOL IN RATNAGIRI, WAS PACING UP AND DOWN THE VERANDA OF HIS HOUSE. HIS WIFE WAS ABOUT TO HAVE A BABY.

HE HAD THREE DAUGHTERS, BUT LIKE OTHER PARENTS OF HIS TIME HE LONGED FOR A SON.



IT'S A GIRL!

WHAT! ANOTHER DAUGHTER!

POOR, DADA! I WILL TELL HIM THE TRUTH.



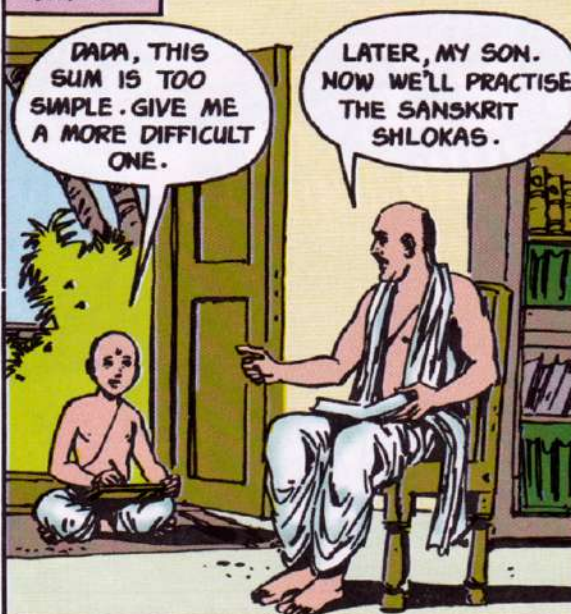
AUNTY'S TEASING YOU, DADA! IT'S A BOY!

YES, IT IS. BUT DON'T BE JUBILANT AND INVITE BAD LUCK.

OH! HOW SUPERSTITIOUS CAN YOU GET! LIKE WHOM DOES HE LOOK?

WHOEVER HE LOOKED LIKE, THE CHILD, BAL GANGADHAR TILAK, WAS DESTINED TO BECOME GREAT

BAL HAD HIS EARLY EDUCATION AT HOME, UNDER THE STRICT SUPERVISION OF HIS FATHER.



WHEN BAL WAS TEN YEARS OLD, HIS FATHER WAS TRANSFERRED TO PUNE.



SHORTLY AFTER THEY CAME TO PUNE, BAL'S MOTHER DIED. IT WAS HIS AUNT WHO NOW LOOKED AFTER HIM.



BAL WAS NO DOUBT INTELLIGENT. BUT HE WAS, TO HIS TEACHER'S ANNOYANCE, EQUALLY STUBBORN. ONE DAY AT SCHOOL —



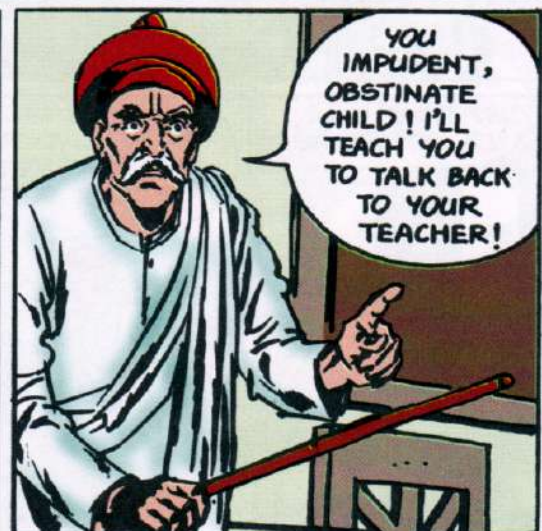
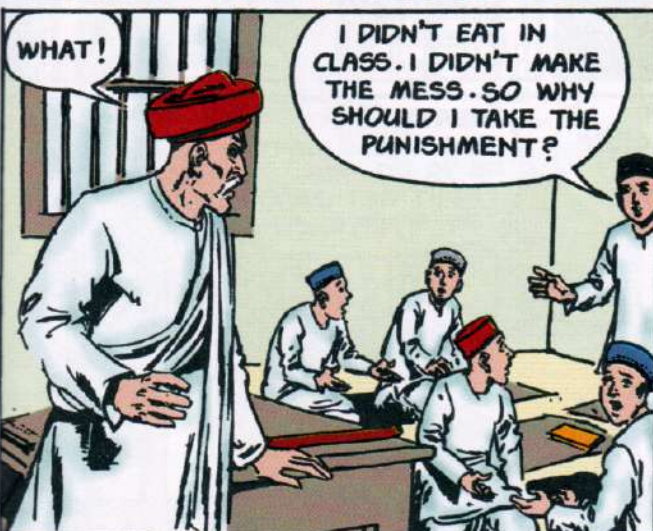
THE TEACHER ENTERED AND TOOK ONE LOOK AT THE CLASS.

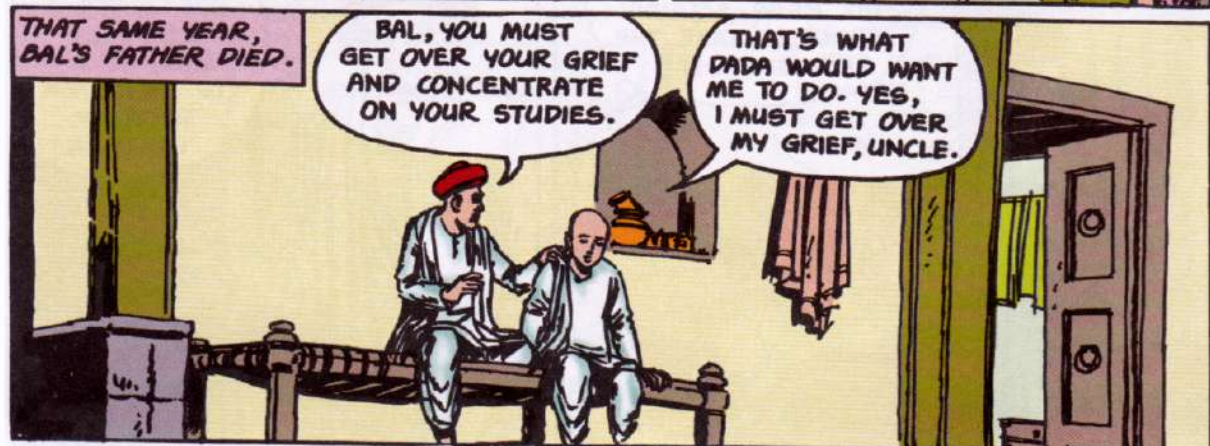
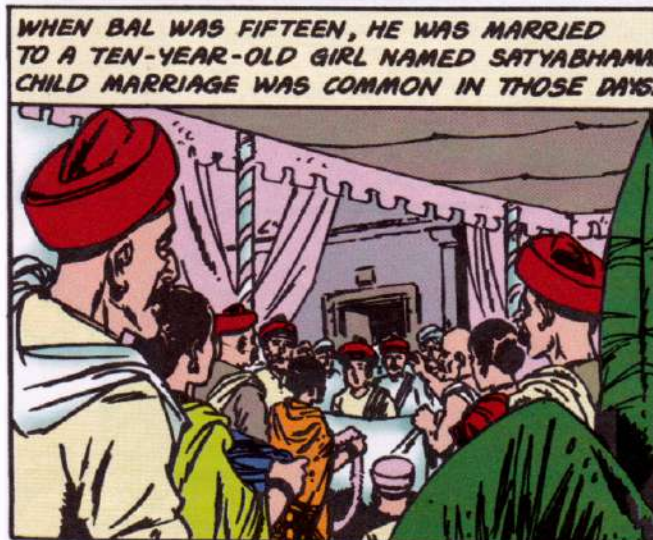
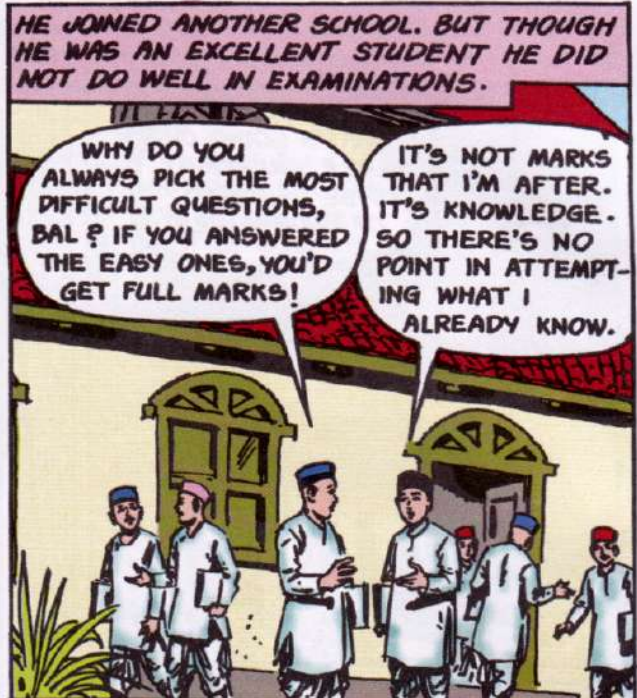


WHEN THE BOYS PRETENDED TO BE SORRY FOR WHAT THEY HAD DONE, THE TEACHER RELENTED.

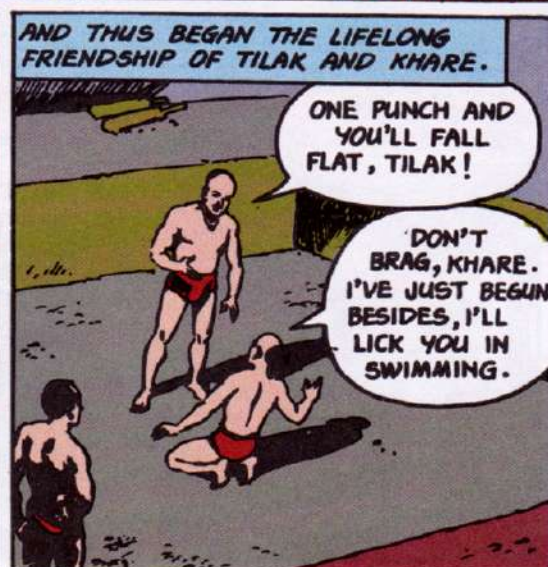
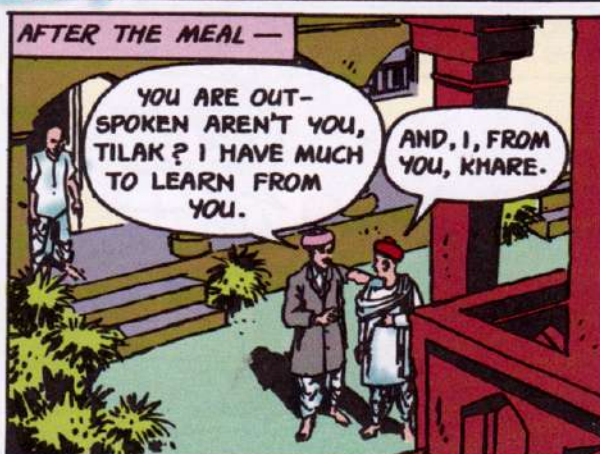
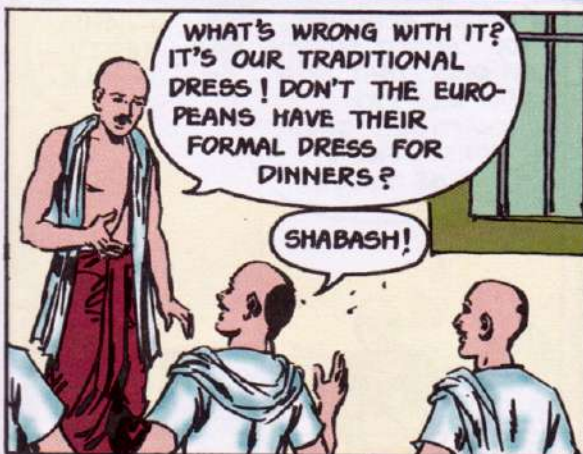
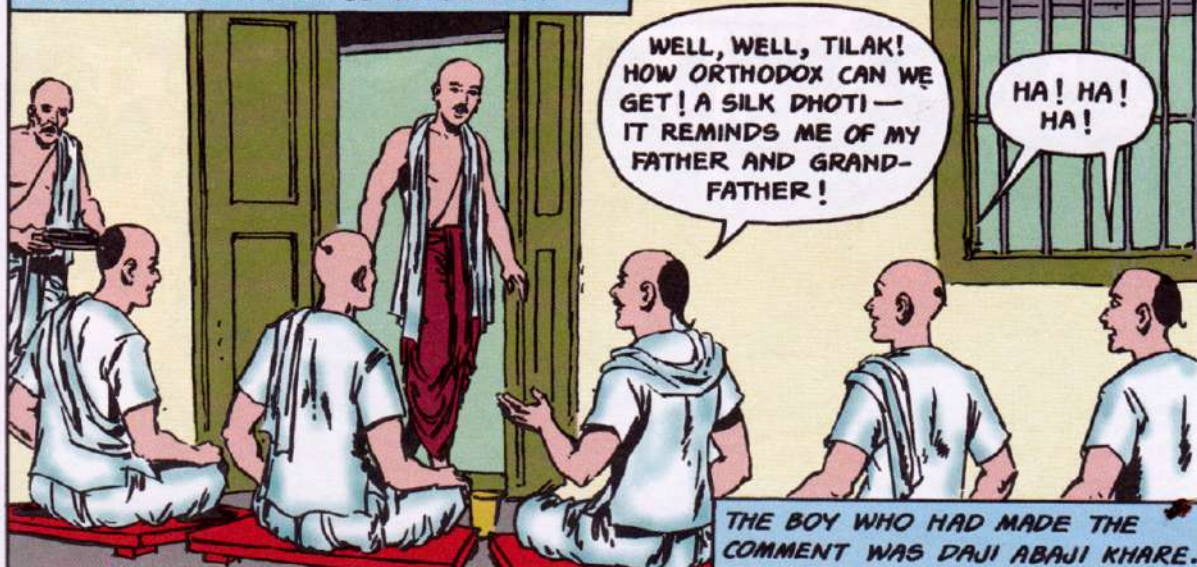


AS THE BOYS BENT DOWN TO PICK UP THE SHELLS, THE TEACHER'S EYE FELL ON BAL.

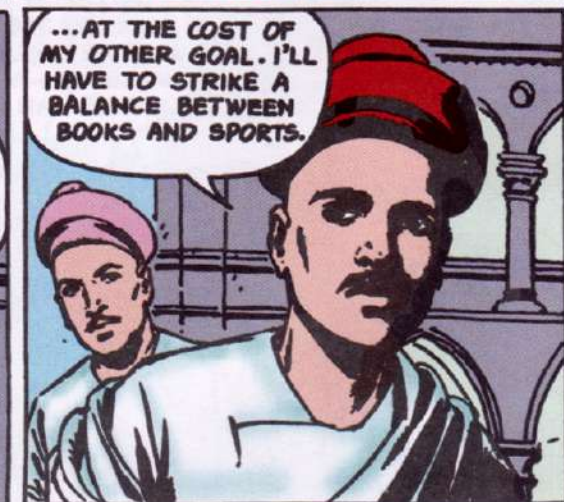
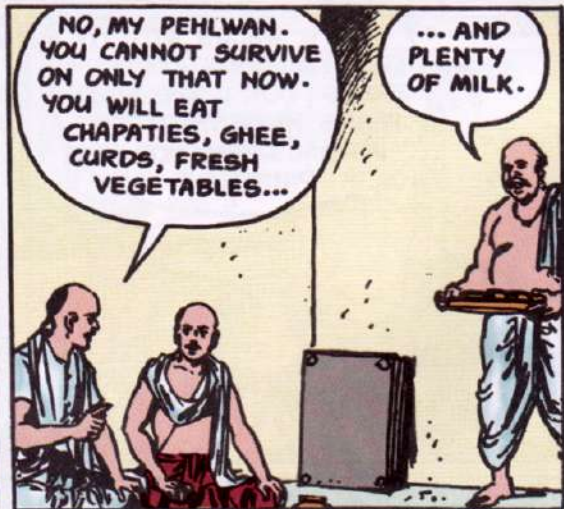
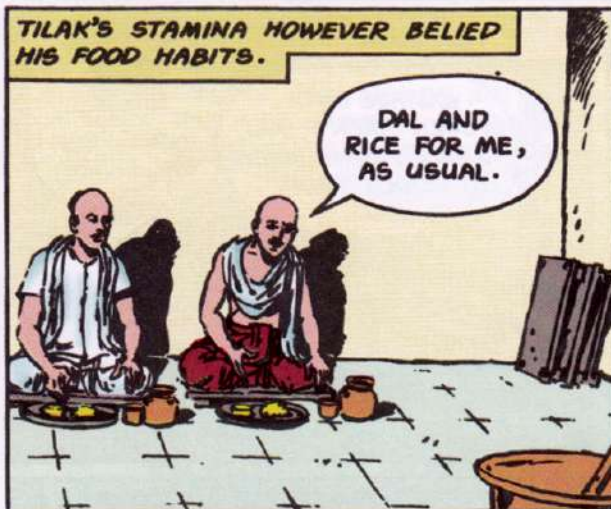
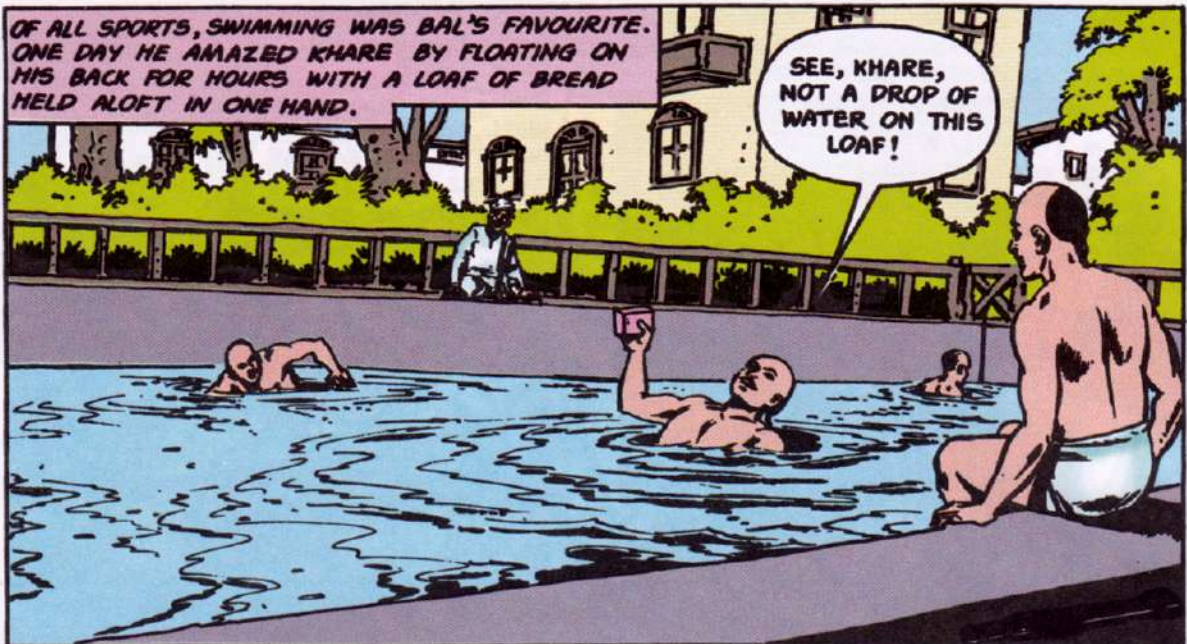




AND GET OVER IT HE DID. HE WAS SEVENTEEN WHEN HE JOINED THE DECCAN COLLEGE. ON THE FIRST DAY AS THE BOYS ASSEMBLED AT THE MESS FOR LUNCH —



* WRESTLER



AND SO WELL DID HE DO IT THAT HE WAS HONoured BY THE BRILLIANT MATHEMATICIAN, PROF. CHHATRE HIMSELF. FOR, ONCE WHEN A STUDENT WENT TO THE PROFESSOR SEEKING HELP —



NOT ALL THE PROFESSORS, HOWEVER, APPRECIATED TILAK'S SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE.



NEVERTHELESS HIS WORDS CARRIED WEIGHT WITH HIS FELLOW STUDENTS. ONCE IN THE COLLEGE HOSTEL —

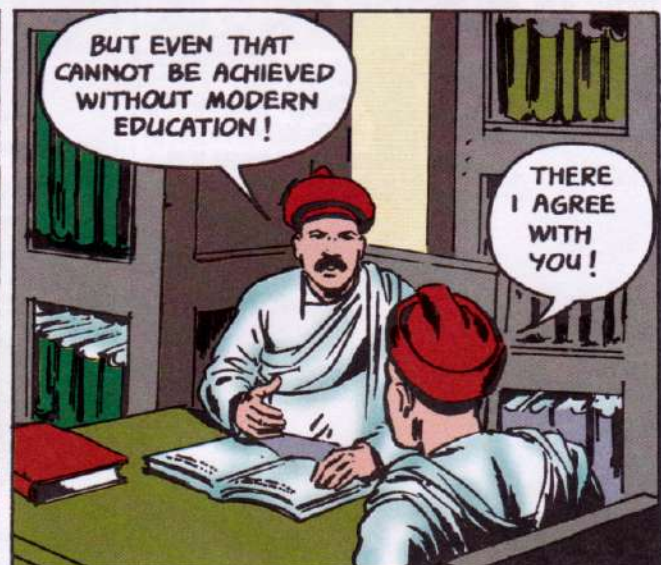


AND THE BOY REACHED OUT FOR THE PICTURE OF THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND, HANGING ON THE WALL.





SOON AFTER GRADUATING IN ARTS, TILAK TOOK UP THE STUDY OF LAW. AROUND THAT TIME HE STRUCK UP A FRIENDSHIP WITH GOPAL GANESH AGARKAR, AN M.A. STUDENT, AND A BUDDING CHAMPION OF SOCIAL REFORMS.



THE IDEA WAS SOON PUT INTO SHAPE. WITH THE HELP OF VISHNUSHASTRI CHITPLUNKAR, THE TWO FRIENDS FOUNDED A SCHOOL.



PEOPLE REFER TO IT AS THE NEW SCHOOL. LET'S NAME IT 'THE NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL.'

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE INAUGURATION AS TILAK AND HIS CLOSE FRIEND NAMJOBHI WERE GOING THE ROUNDS —



HOW CAN WE EXPECT THE CHILDREN TO SIT ON THIS JAGGED FLOOR, TILAK?

LET'S LEVEL IT OUT, THEN.

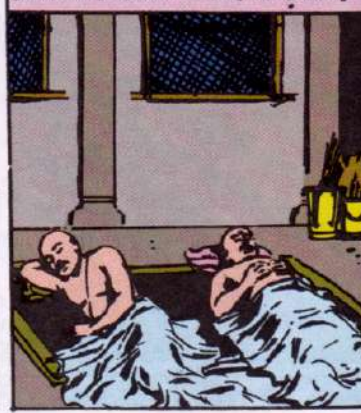
THE TWO FRIENDS WORKED HARD.



AT THE END OF IT THEY WERE SO EXHAUSTED THAT ...



... THEY FELL ASLEEP IN THE SCHOOL, WITH A BLACK BOARD FOR A BED!



THE SCHOOL ATTRACTED THE BEST OF TALENTS. SUCH AN ENCOURAGING RESPONSE INSPIRED THE FRIENDS TO WORK WITH GREATER ENTHUSIASM.



WE'RE LUCKY TO CATCH THEM YOUNG. AND IF WE DON'T SUCCEED IN INCULCATING SELF-RESPECT AND LOVE FOR THE COUNTRY IN THEM...

WE WILL SUCCEED! IF ONLY WE COULD REACH THE ADULTS TOO!

TILAK'S WORDS SET CHIPLUNKAR THINKING.
ONE DAY —

I'VE FOUND A WAY TO
REACH THE ADULTS! WHY
DON'T WE START A
WEEKLY?

WHY ONE, LET'S
HAVE TWO! ONE IN
ENGLISH AND THE
OTHER IN
MARATHI!



TILAK! NONE OF US
HAVE THE JOURNALISTIC
EXPERIENCE FOR ONE,
AND YOU TALK OF TWO.

BUT, AGARKAR, YOU HAVE
MUCH TO SAY. YOUR HEART
IS BURNING WITH PATRIO-
TISM! WORDS WILL FLOW
OF THEIR OWN ACCORD!



AND SO THE TWO WEEKLIES — KESARI IN
MARATHI AND THE MAHRATTA IN ENGLISH
WERE BORN.

THERE! OUR
OFFICE! THE
EDITOR'S CHAIR,
DESK AND
STATIONERY!



WHAT ABOUT
THE PRINTING
MACHINE,
NAMJOSHI?

LEAVE
THAT TO ME,
AGARKAR.



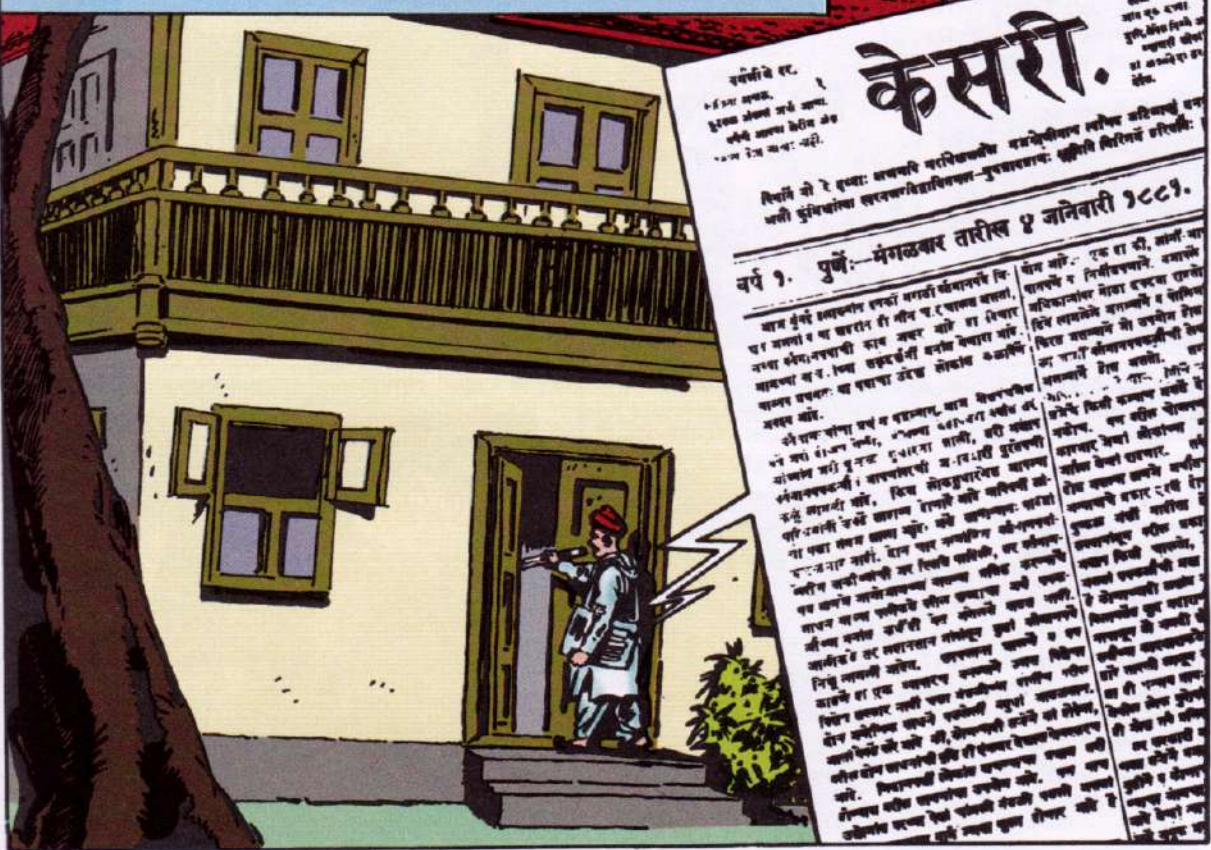
NAMJOSHI MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A SECOND-HAND PRINTING MACHINE AND HAD IT SMUGGLED INTO THE SCHOOL ONE NIGHT.

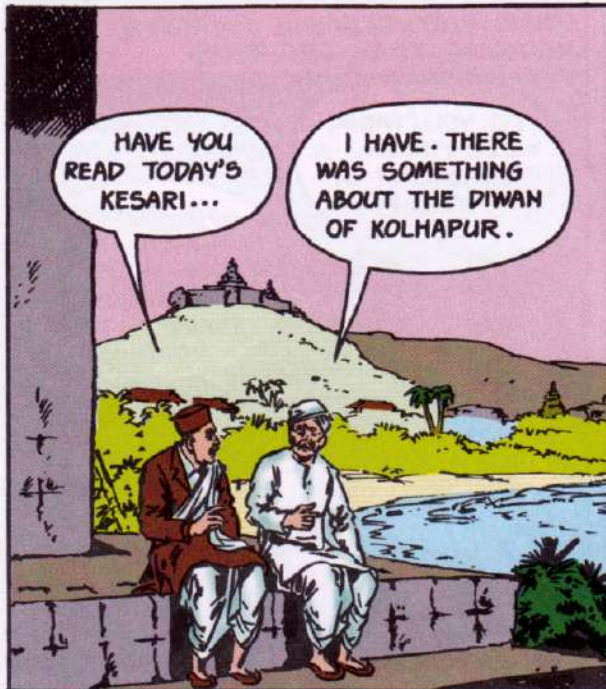


SINCE THEY COULDN'T AFFORD A MECHANIC, TILAK SET IT UP.



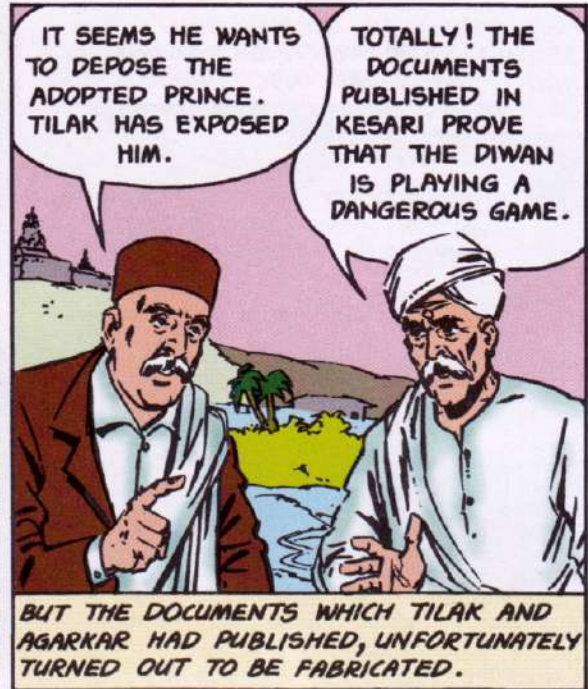
BEFORE THE BREAK OF DAY, TILAK AND HIS FRIENDS THEMSELVES DISTRIBUTED COPIES FROM DOOR TO DOOR.





HAVE YOU READ TODAY'S KESARI...

I HAVE. THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THE DIWAN OF KOLHAPUR.



IT SEEMS HE WANTS TO DEPOSE THE ADOPTED PRINCE. TILAK HAS EXPOSED HIM.

TOTALLY! THE DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED IN KESARI PROVE THAT THE DIWAN IS PLAYING A DANGEROUS GAME.

BUT THE DOCUMENTS WHICH TILAK AND AGARKAR HAD PUBLISHED, UNFORTUNATELY TURNED OUT TO BE FABRICATED.

THE DIWAN SUED THE EDITORS AND HAD THEM JAILED IN SPITE OF THE APOLOGY OFFERED.

THE DOCUMENTS MAY BE FALSE, BUT I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE DIWAN IS UP TO SOME MISCHIEF.

ANYWAY TILAK AND AGARKAR DON'T DESERVE TO BE IMPRISONED FOR PUBLISHING WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO BE A GENUINE DOCUMENT.



THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF PUNE WERE OPENLY EXPRESSED IN THE ROUSING WELCOME GIVEN TO TILAK AND AGARKAR ON THEIR RELEASE FROM JAIL.

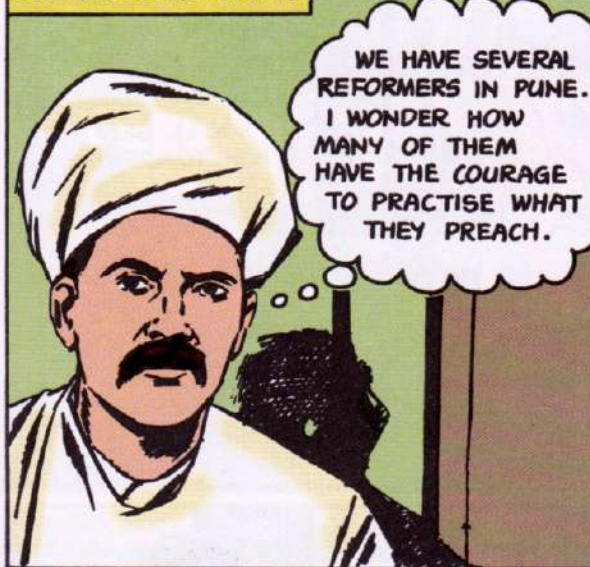


SOON AFTER THEIR RELEASE, THE FRIENDS FORMED THE DECCAN EDUCATION SOCIETY AND THE FERGUSSON COLLEGE WAS STARTED.



ONE GREAT THING ABOUT TILAK IS THAT WHILE HE ENCOURAGES MODERN EDUCATION, HE RESPECTS OUR CUSTOMS WHICH MANY OF OUR REFORMERS DO NOT.

BUT THIS FAITH IN TILAK WAS PUT TO THE TEST, IN A RATHER MISCHIVIOUS MANNER, BY ONE GOPALRAO JOSHI.



JOSHI INVITED THEM TO DELIVER LECTURES AT A CHRISTIAN MISSION. AFTER THE LECTURE —



THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE ORTHODOXY WERE IN FOR A SHOCK.

DID YOU SEE THE MORNING PAPERS ? RANADE AND GOKHALE, I CAN UNDERSTAND. BUT TILAK ! I NEVER DREAMT THAT TILAK WOULD HAVE TEA FROM A CHRISTIAN KITCHEN !



ALL THIS REFORM BUSINESS IS GOING TOO FAR !

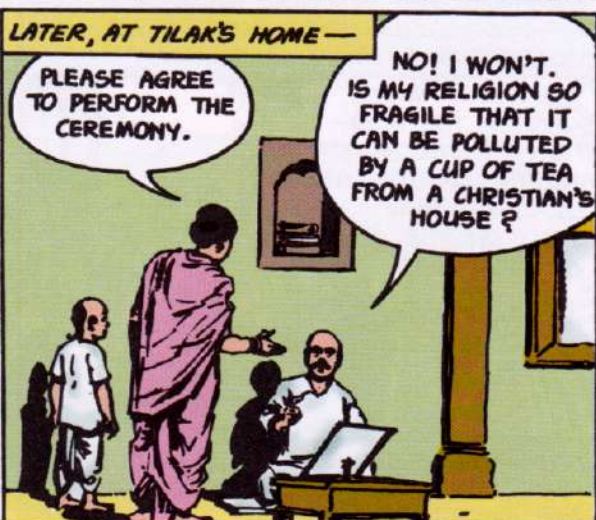
YES. WE MUST EXPEL THEM FROM THE COMMUNITY UNLESS THEY ARE PREPARED TO PERFORM THE PURIFICATION CEREMONY.

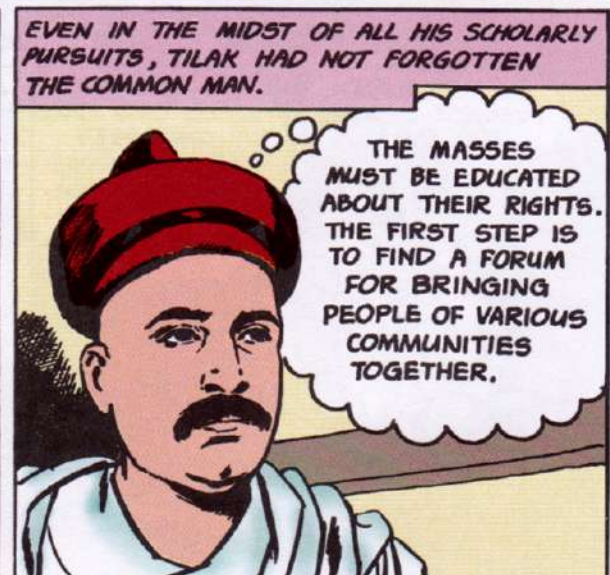
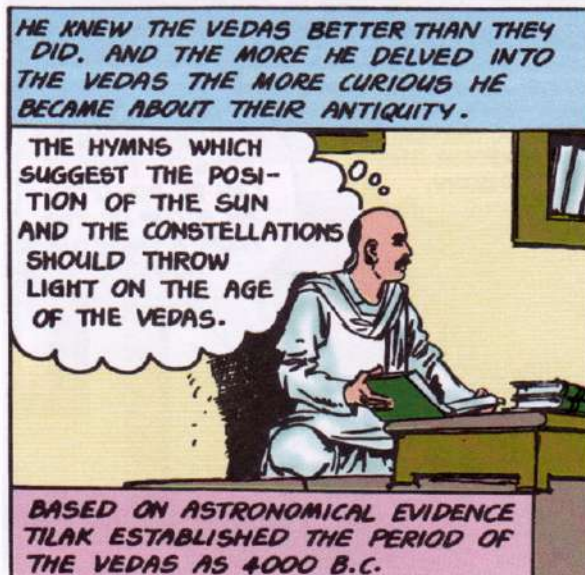
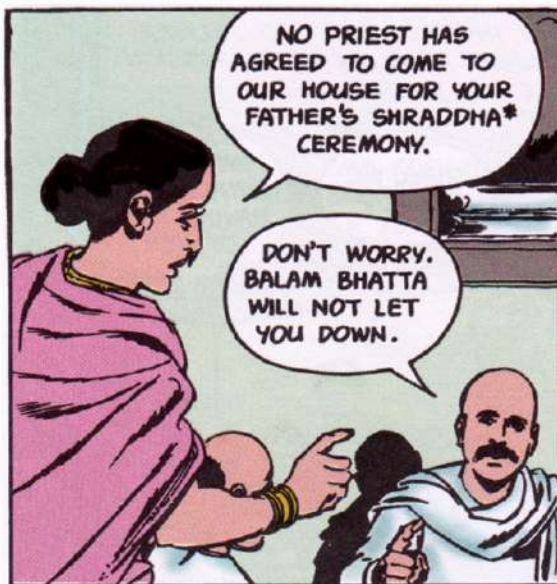


LATER, AT TILAK'S HOME —

PLEASE AGREE TO PERFORM THE CEREMONY.

NO ! I WON'T. IS MY RELIGION SO FRAGILE THAT IT CAN BE POLLUTED BY A CUP OF TEA FROM A CHRISTIAN'S HOUSE ?





TO ACHIEVE THIS, HE SET THE TRADITION OF PUBLICLY CELEBRATING THE GANESHA FESTIVAL.



LATER HE CELEBRATED THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SHIVAJI AT RAIGAD, WHICH HAD ONCE BEEN THE CAPITAL OF THE MARATHAS.

SHIVAJI LOVED HIS COUNTRY AND HIS FREEDOM. HE WAS SELF-RESPECTING, COURAGEOUS, BRAVE AND NOBLE. LET HIS LIFE BE AN EXAMPLE TO ALL OF US.



AROUND THAT TIME, THE GOVERNMENT RAISED THE TAX* ON INDIAN CLOTH, TO HELP THE CLOTH FROM BRITAIN TO SELL BETTER.

FOR SWADESHI† CLOTH, IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE! WHY SHOULD WE BUY IT WHEN IMPORTED CLOTH IS AVAILABLE FOR THE SAME PRICE?



IT'S THE NEW TAX. WE ARE HELPLESS. WHAT CAN WE DO?



TILAK, HOWEVER, DID NOT SIT BACK HELPLESS.

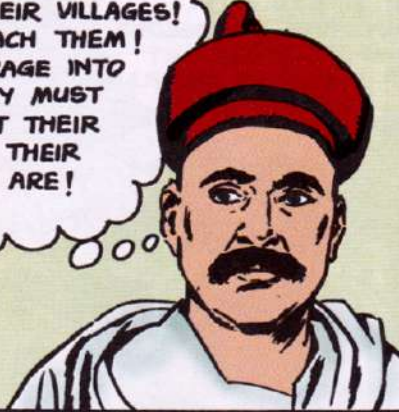
IF WE DON'T BUY SWADESHI CLOTH, WHO WILL? HOW WILL OUR PEOPLE, OUR TRADE SURVIVE? IF YOU LOVE YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR PEOPLE, DON'T BUY BRITISH CLOTH! BOYCOTT IT!



* EXCISE DUTY † INDIGENOUS

ONCE WHEN FAMINE BROKE OUT IN
MAHARASHTRA —

THE FARMERS ARE
LEAVING THEIR VILLAGES!
I MUST REACH THEM!
INSTIL COURAGE INTO
THEM! THEY MUST
KNOW WHAT THEIR
RIGHTS IN THEIR
HOMELAND ARE!



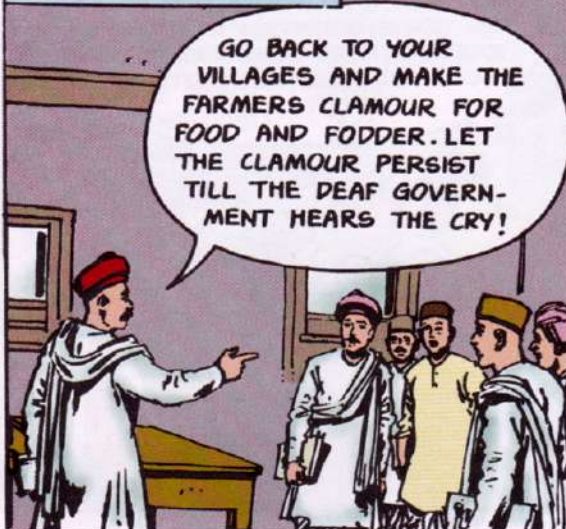
TILAK DID NOT BELIEVE IN SENDING
PETITIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT AS
SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE
INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, THE
MODERATES, DID. HIS METHODS
WERE DIFFERENT.

THE CROPS HAVE FAILED AND
YOU HAVE NEITHER FOOD NOR
MONEY. ARE YOU GOING TO LOSE
THE ROOF ABOVE YOUR HEAD
TOO? YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE!
CAN'T YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR
RIGHTS EVEN IN THE GRIP OF
DEATH?



TILAK AND HIS SUPPORTERS WERE
LABELLED EXTREMISTS. BUT THAT
DID NOT DETER HIM.

GO BACK TO YOUR
VILLAGES AND MAKE THE
FARMERS CLAMOUR FOR
FOOD AND FODDER. LET
THE CLAMOUR PERSIST
TILL THE DEAF GOVERN-
MENT HEARS THE CRY!



WE WILL NOT
REST TILL THE
CRY IS HEARD!



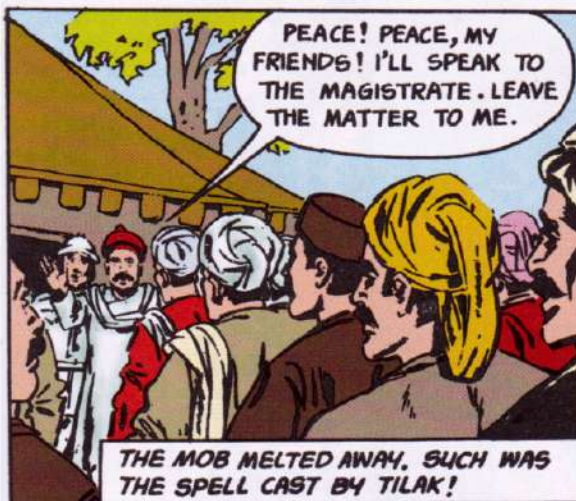
YOUNG AND OLD, TILAK'S VOLUNTEERS WENT TO THE VILLAGES CARRYING HIS MESSAGE.



THE OFFICIALS RETALIATED BY ARRESTING THE VOLUNTEERS. AT PUNE A FURIOUS MOB SURROUNDED THE MAGISTRATE.



WHEN TILAK RUSHED TO THE SCENE —



THE MOB MELTED AWAY. SUCH WAS THE SPELL CAST BY TILAK!

WHILE TILAK WAS BUSY WITH THE STRUGGLE TO SECURE FAMINE RELIEF FOR THE FARMERS, THE PLAGUE STRUCK PUNE. THE GOVERNMENT WAS AT FIRST INDIFFERENT AND TOOK NO MEASURES TO ARREST THE SPREAD OF THE DREADED DISEASE.

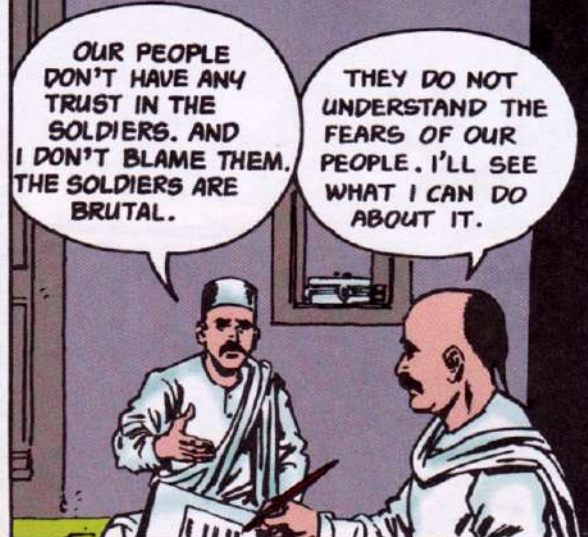


FINALLY WHEN IT DID ACT, IT DID SO WITH A VENGEANCE. ONE CHARLES RAND WAS APPOINTED PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.



I WANT EVERY HOUSE IN PUNE DISINFECTED. PUT ANY-ONE WHO IS ILL IN HOSPITAL AND TAKE THE RELATIVES TO THE CAMP OUTSIDE THE TOWN—BY FORCE IF NECESSARY. THAT'S ALL. YOU MAY GO.

BUT THERE WAS TROUBLE AFOOT.



OUR PEOPLE DON'T HAVE ANY TRUST IN THE SOLDIERS. AND I DON'T BLAME THEM. THE SOLDIERS ARE BRUTAL.

THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE FEARS OF OUR PEOPLE. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT IT.

TILAK WENT THE ROUNDS, SOMETIMES WITH THE SOLDIERS, SOMETIMES ALONE.



YOUR SON IS DOWN WITH THE PLAGUE. IT IS YOUR DUTY TO SEND HIM TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

NO! NO! THAT MEANS SURE DEATH! I WANT MY SON TO REMAIN IN MY HOUSE. I WILL NOT...

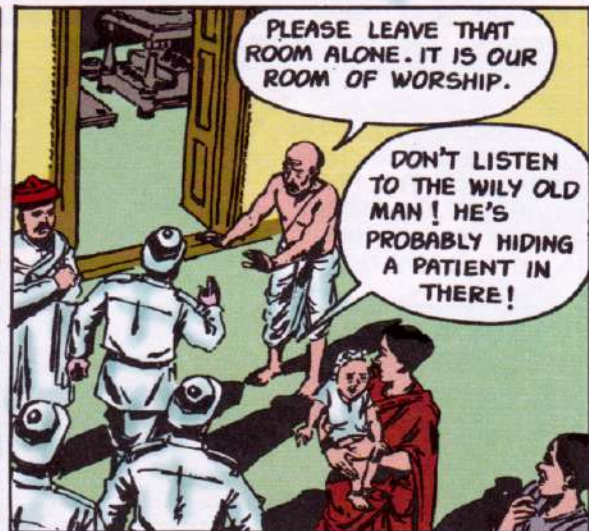


PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, KAKA*, TO SAVE HIS LIFE AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS AT HOME, YOU MUST SEND HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.

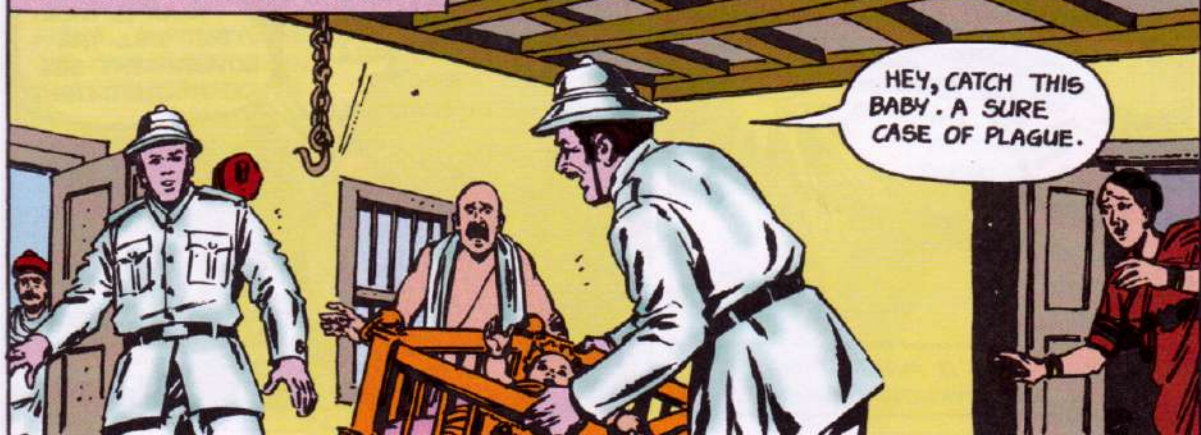
YOU KNOW BEST, BALWANTRAO. DO AS YOU WISH.

* UNCLE

JUST THEN THE SOLDIERS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.



THE OVERZEALOUS SOLDIERS DID NOT RESPECT THE FEELINGS OF THE CITIZENS. THEY HANDLED EVEN BABIES IN THEIR CRADLES WITHOUT ANY MERCY.



TILAK RAISED HIS VOICE AGAINST INHUMAN TREATMENT METED OUT TO THE SUFFERING PEOPLE OF PUNE. IN HIS ENGLISH WEEKLY, MAHRATTA, HE WROTE —

THE PLAGUE IS MORE MERCIFUL TO US THAN ITS HUMAN PROTOTYPE NOW REIGNING IN THE CITY...

HOW RIGHT TILAK IS! THEY CAUSE MORE MISERY THAN THE DISEASE DOES.

TILAK SET UP HIS OWN SEGREGATION CAMP FOR THE TERRIFIED VICTIMS AND THEIR RELATIVES. HE EVEN STARTED A FREE KITCHEN FOR THE POOR IN THE CAMP.

ALL THE LEADERS HAVE FLED, LEAVING US TO THE MERCY OF THE PLAGUE AND THE SOLDIERS. TILAK ALONE HAS STOOD BY US.

HE IS THE REAL LEADER.

NORMALCY SLOWLY RETURNED BUT THE WOUNDS INFLICTED BY THE THOUGHTLESS SOLDIERS DID NOT HEAL. AN ANGRY MAN, DAMODAR HARI CHAPHEKAR, SHOT AT RAND.

MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT IMPOSED HEAVY FINES ON THE CITIZENS.

LOOK! LISTEN TO WHAT TILAK HAS TO SAY. HAS THE GOVERNMENT LOST ITS SENSES? TO RULE DOES NOT MEAN TO INDULGE IN REPRISALS.

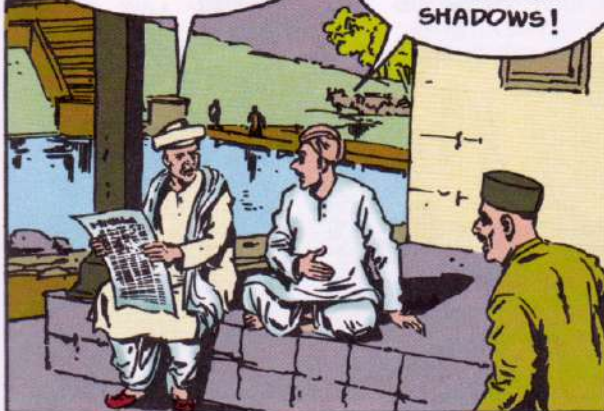
TILAK IS WISE. BUT WILL THE GOVERNMENT SEE IT IN THAT LIGHT?

THERE WAS A MASSIVE HUNT FOR THE UNKNOWN CULPRIT.

THEY CERTAINLY DIDN'T.

THE TIMES OF INDIA* ALLEGES THAT THE CULPRIT DREW INSPIRATION FROM TILAK'S WRITINGS AND SPEECHES.

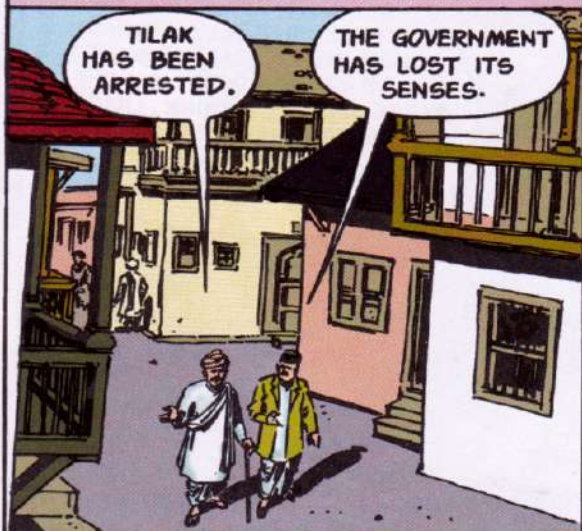
THE ENGLISHMEN ARE SO PANIC-STRICKEN THAT THEY SEE MURDERERS EVEN IN THEIR OWN SHADOWS!



WHEN RAND DIED OF THE BULLET WOUND, THE ENGLISHMEN STEPPED UP THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST TILAK. FINALLY THE GOVERNMENT SWUNG INTO ACTION.

TILAK HAS BEEN ARRESTED.

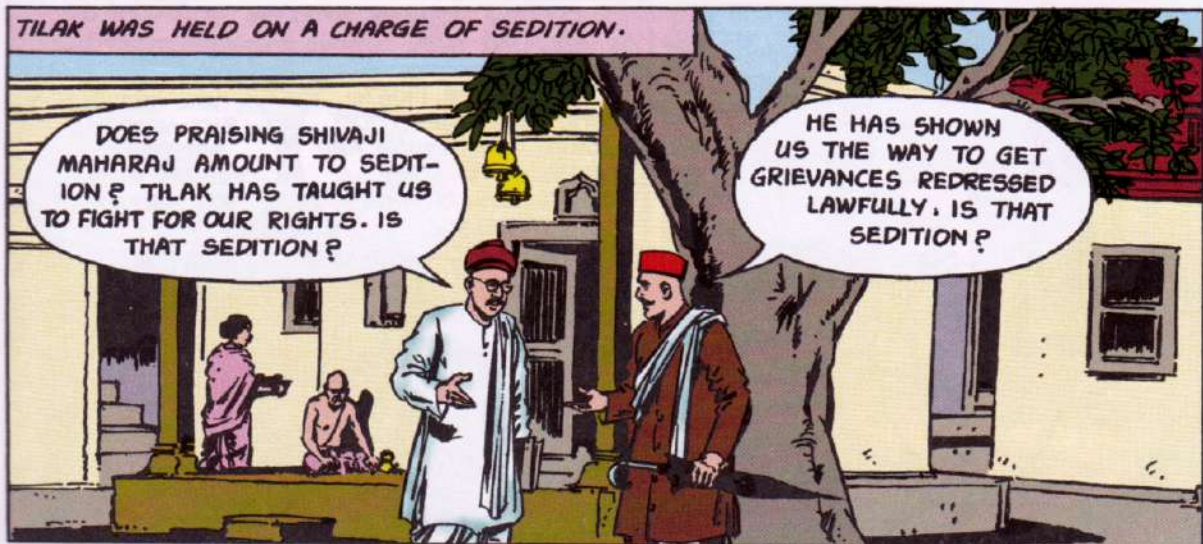
THE GOVERNMENT HAS LOST ITS SENSES.



TILAK WAS HELD ON A CHARGE OF SEDITION.

DOES PRAISING SHIVAJI MAHARAJ AMOUNT TO SEDITION? TILAK HAS TAUGHT US TO FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS. IS THAT SEDITION?

HE HAS SHOWN US THE WAY TO GET GRIEVANCES REDRESSED LAWFULLY. IS THAT SEDITION?



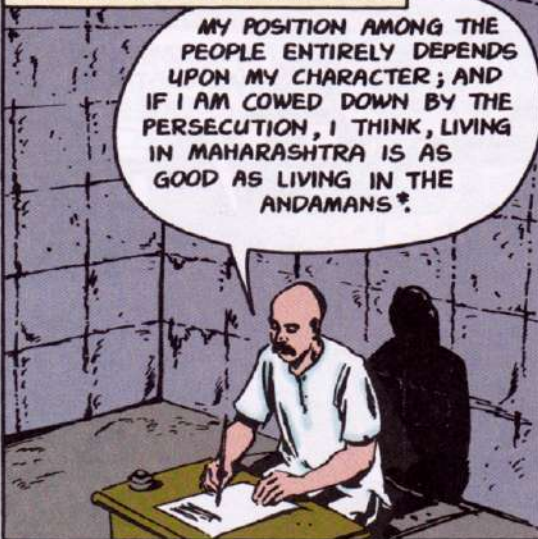
WE OPENLY DARE TO CRITICISE THE GOVERNMENT. A FEW YEARS AGO WE COULD NOT EVEN THINK OF SUCH A THING!

THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGAINST TILAK. HE HAS INSTILLED COURAGE INTO US. THAT IS SEDITION ACCORDING TO THEM.



* THEN CONTROLLED BY A BRITISH COMPANY

SOME OF HIS FRIENDS HINTED THAT TILAK SHOULD OFFER AN APOLOGY AND SECURE HIS RELEASE. TILAK REFUSED.



AS EXPECTED THE COURT FOUND TILAK GUILTY. THE SENTENCE WAS EIGHTEEN MONTHS' RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT. WHEN THE NEWS REACHED HIS WIFE, SHE FELL SERIOUSLY ILL.



TILAK TOO FELL ILL IN PRISON. HE LOST 21 POUNDS!



HOWEVER, A MUSLIM WARDER TRIED TO BE OF HELP TO HIM.

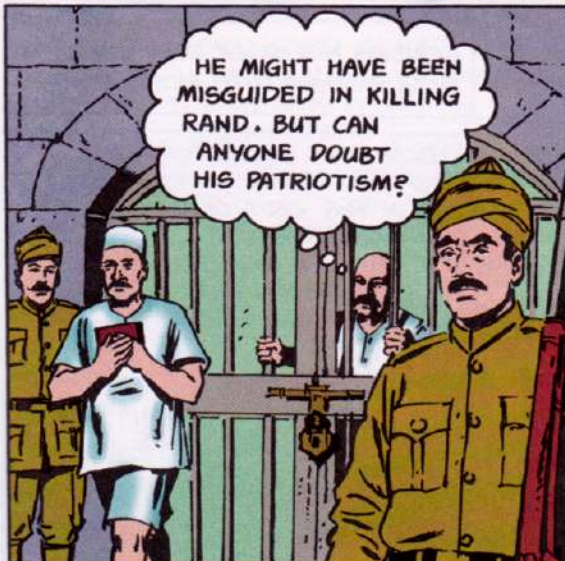


THE NEXT DAY, HE BROUGHT SOME COPRA AND JAGGERY. TILAK DECIDED TO LIE TO PUT HIM OFF.



* WHERE POLITICAL PRISONERS USED TO BE DEPORTED

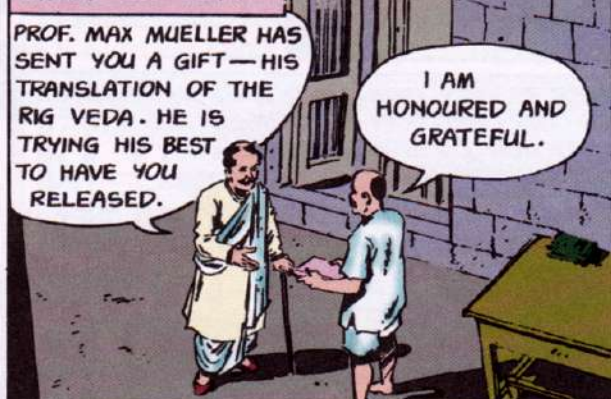
WHEN TILAK WAS SHIFTED FROM BOMBAY TO YERAVDA JAIL, CHAPHEKAR WHO HAD BEEN CAUGHT AND SENTENCED TO DEATH, TOOK SPECIAL PERMISSION TO MEET HIM IN HIS CELL.



A FEW DAYS LATER, A BENGALI GENTLEMAN CALLED ON TILAK.

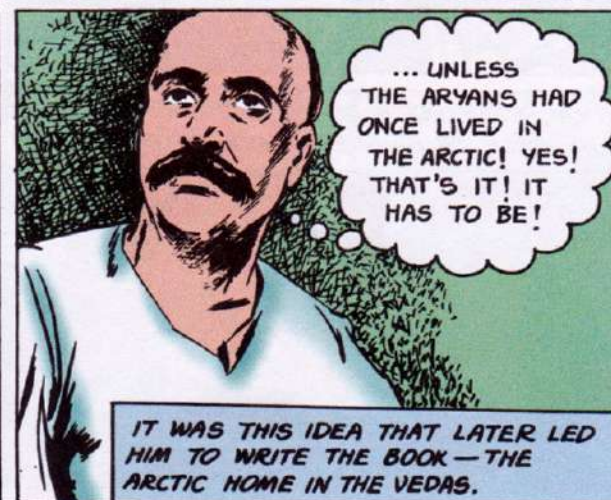
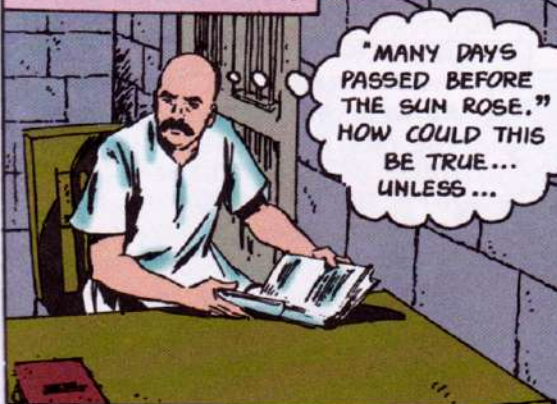
PROF. MAX MUELLER HAS SENT YOU A GIFT—HIS TRANSLATION OF THE RIG VEDA. HE IS TRYING HIS BEST TO HAVE YOU RELEASED.

I AM HONOURED AND GRATEFUL.

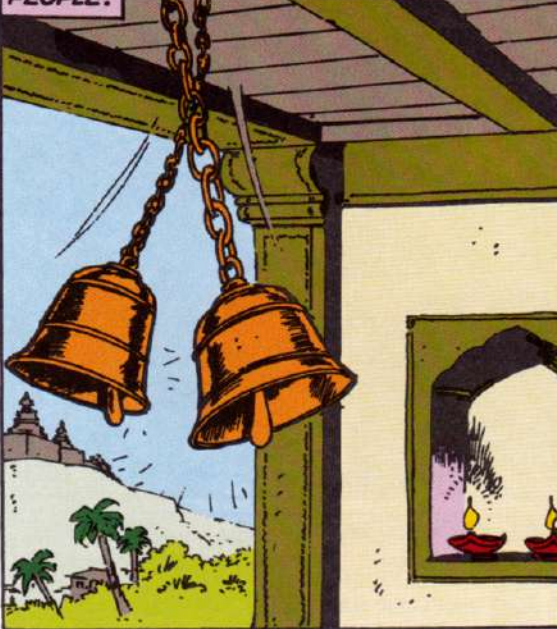


THE RARE GIFT FROM THE FAMOUS GERMAN SCHOLAR WON FOR TILAK FACILITIES FOR READING AND WRITING IN HIS CELL.

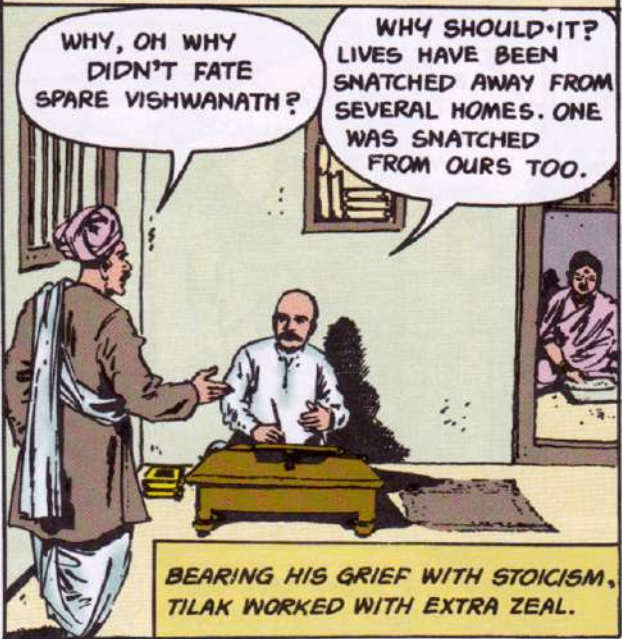
ONE OF THE VERSES HE CAME ACROSS WHILE READING THE TRANSLATION MADE HIM PAUSE AND THINK.



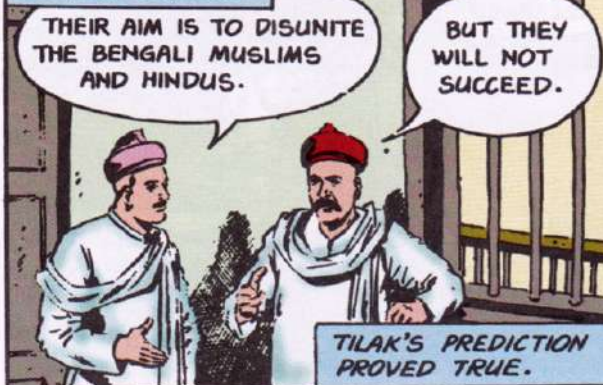
AT LAST ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1898, TILAK WAS RELEASED. THE TEMPLE BELLS OF PUNE RANG OUT ECHOING THE JOY OF THE PEOPLE.



FIVE YEARS LATER, THE PLAGUE BROKE OUT AGAIN IN PUNE. THIS TIME IT CLAIMED TILAK'S ELDEST SON.



THEN IN JULY 1905, LORD CURZON ANNOUNCED THE PARTITION OF BENGAL. THE PARTITION CAME INTO FORCE ON OCTOBER 16, 1905.



THE PARTITION ONLY GAVE FURTHER IMPETUS TO THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT. IN PUNE AS IN THE REST OF INDIA, PEOPLE BOYCOTTED FOREIGN GOODS. STUDENTS MADE A HUGE BONFIRE OF FOREIGN CLOTHES; THE FIRST OF MANY TO COME.

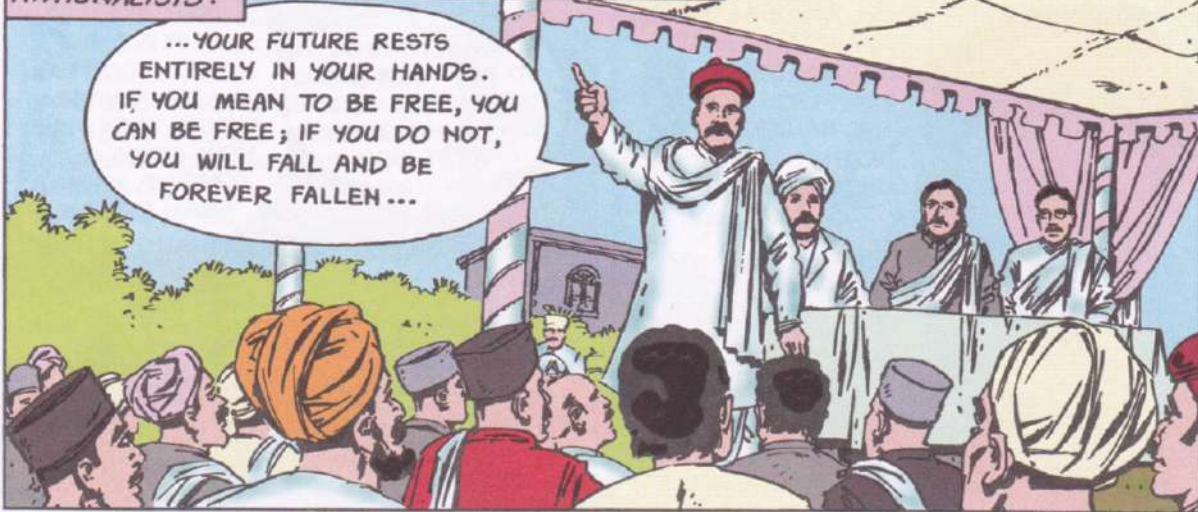


TILAK STARTED A GLASS FACTORY AT TALEGAON AND A CO-OPERATIVE STORE FOR THE SALE OF SWADESHI GOODS IN BOMBAY.



SINCE SWARAJ WAS THE GOAL OF TILAK AND HIS FRIENDS, LIKE LALA LAJPATRAI OF PUNJAB AND AUROBINDO GHOSE OF BENGAL, THEY CAME TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONALISTS.

...YOUR FUTURE RESTS ENTIRELY IN YOUR HANDS. IF YOU MEAN TO BE FREE, YOU CAN BE FREE; IF YOU DO NOT, YOU WILL FALL AND BE FOREVER FALLEN...



THE GOVERNMENT TRIED IN VAIN TO CURB THE NATIONALISTS. LALA LAJPATRAI WAS DEPORTED TO MANDALAY IN BURMA. BUT —

... IF YOUR AGITATION STOPPED AS SOON AS ONE DEPORTATION TOOK PLACE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GET AWAY WITH THE IDEA THAT REPRESSION HAD TRIUMPHED.



WHEN LAJPATRAI WAS RELEASED IN NOVEMBER 1907 —

LAJPATRAI SHOULD BE MADE THE PRESIDENT OF THE SURAT CONGRESS.

THAT WOULD BE A FITTING REPLY TO THE GOVERNMENT!

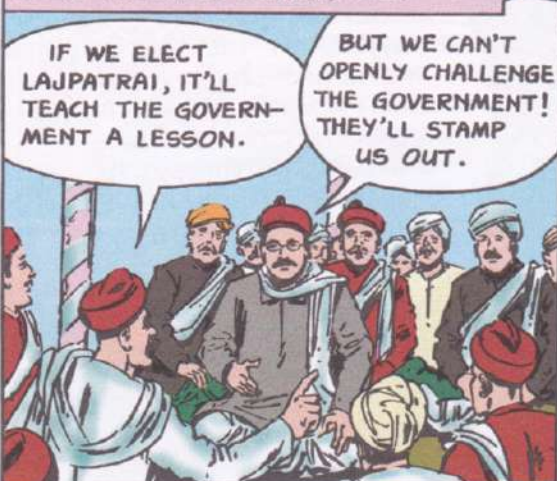


THE MODERATES HOWEVER WANTED DR. RASHBEHARI GHOSH.

WHEN THE TWO PARTIES MET —

IF WE ELECT LAJPATRAI, IT'LL TEACH THE GOVERNMENT A LESSON.

BUT WE CAN'T OPENLY CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT! THEY'LL STAMP US OUT.

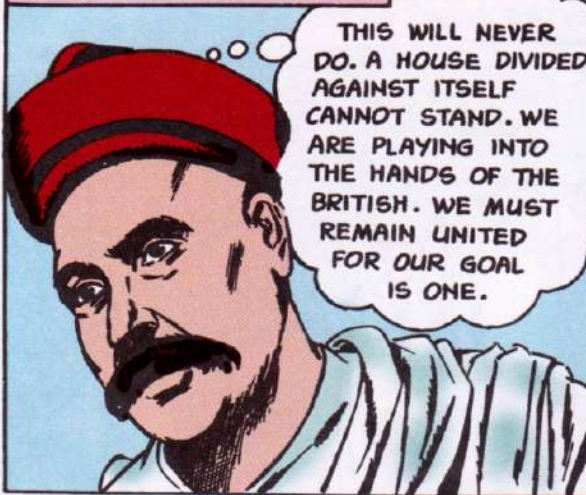


AT THE CONGRESS SESSION IN SURAT, TILAK WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK BEFORE DR. GHOSH'S ELECTION.

I'VE A RIGHT TO ADDRESS THE DELEGATES. YOU CAN'T STOP ME!

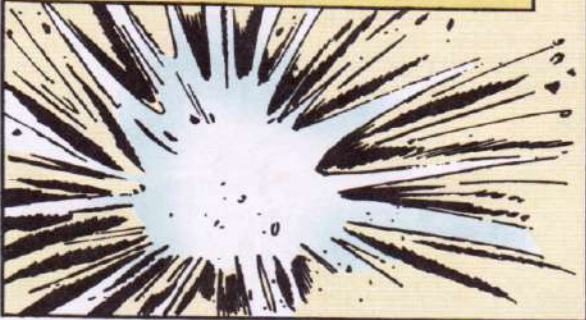


BUT THEY DID AND THE CONGRESS SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS.



THIS WILL NEVER DO. A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND. WE ARE PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH. WE MUST REMAIN UNITED FOR OUR GOAL IS ONE.

AROUND THIS TIME, REVOLUTIONARIES WHO BELIEVED IN VIOLENCE BECAME ACTIVE. ON APRIL 30, 1908 THE FIRST BOMB WAS THROWN AT THE BRITISH RESIDENTS OF MUZAFFARPUR.



THE EXPLOSION ECHOED THROUGH THE COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT SWUNG INTO ACTION AND SEVERAL JOURNALISTS WERE JAILED.

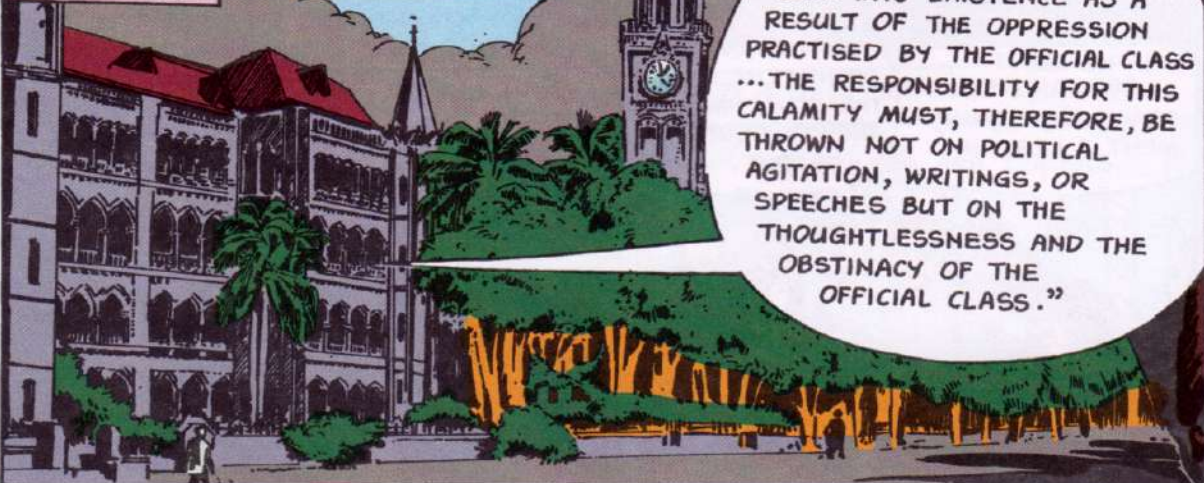


TILAK, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A TIP. THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO ARREST YOU.

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS LIKE A VAST PRISON. THEY ARE NOW GOING TO CONFIN ME IN A SMALLER ONE.

A FEW DAYS LATER, TILAK WAS ARRESTED. THE CHARGE WAS SEDITION; THE OFFENCE, AN ARTICLE HE HAD WRITTEN.

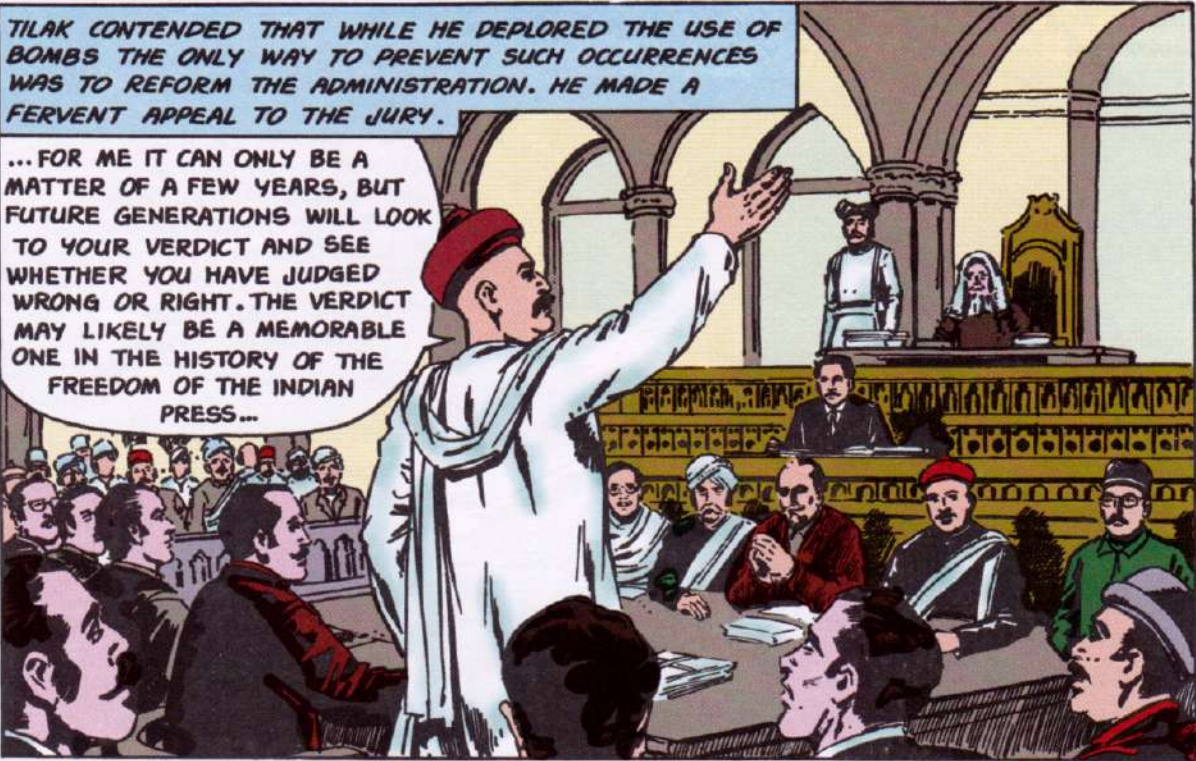
THE CASE AGAINST TILAK CAME UP BEFORE THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT. THE ADVOCATE-GENERAL QUOTED FROM THE ARTICLE TO PRESS HIS CLAIM THAT TILAK WAS GUILTY.



"THE BOMB PARTY HAS COME INTO EXISTENCE AS A RESULT OF THE OPPRESSION PRACTISED BY THE OFFICIAL CLASS ...THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS CALAMITY MUST, THEREFORE, BE THROWN NOT ON POLITICAL AGITATION, WRITINGS, OR SPEECHES BUT ON THE THOUGHTLESSNESS AND THE OBSTINACY OF THE OFFICIAL CLASS."

TILAK CONTENDED THAT WHILE HE DEPLORED THE USE OF BOMBS THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT SUCH OCCURRENCES WAS TO REFORM THE ADMINISTRATION. HE MADE A FERVENT APPEAL TO THE JURY.

...FOR ME IT CAN ONLY BE A MATTER OF A FEW YEARS, BUT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL LOOK TO YOUR VERDICT AND SEE WHETHER YOU HAVE JUDGED WRONG OR RIGHT. THE VERDICT MAY LIKELY BE A MEMORABLE ONE IN THE HISTORY OF THE FREEDOM OF THE INDIAN PRESS...



WHEN THE JURY FOUND HIM GUILTY —

I MAINTAIN THAT I AM INNOCENT....IT MAY BE THE WILL OF PROVIDENCE THAT THE CAUSE WHICH I REPRESENT MAY PROSPER MORE BY MY SUFFERINGS THAN BY MY REMAINING FREE.



TILAK WAS SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR SIX YEARS. IN BOMBAY A SIX-DAY STRIKE WAS OBSERVED AND ALL THE TEXTILE MILLS WERE CLOSED.



THE POLICE FIRED INDISCRIMINATELY AT THE DEMONSTRATORS.



ON JUNE 17, 1914 AT 2-00 A.M. THERE WAS A KNOCK AT GAIKWAD WADA, TILAK'S RESIDENCE.



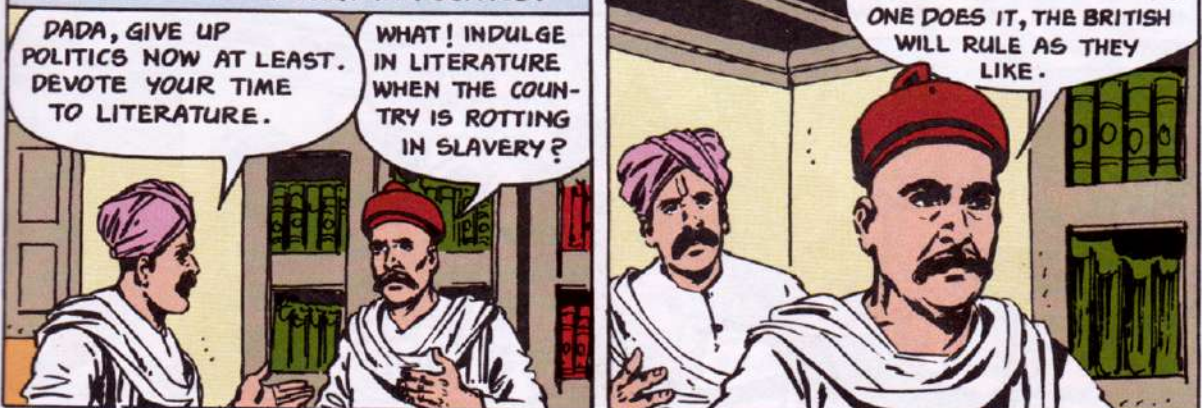
THE WHOLE HOUSEHOLD WOKE UP. TILAK WAS BACK!



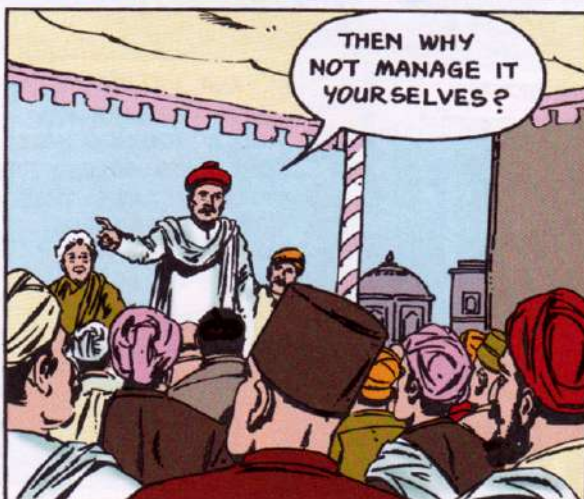
THE NEWS SPREAD. FRIENDS CAME RUNNING TO HIS HOUSE. THEY TALKED TILL DAYBREAK.



SOME WELL-WISHERS TRIED TO DISSUADE TILAK FROM TAKING PART IN POLITICS.



TILAK TOOK UP THE CAUSE OF HOME RULE, THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO FORM THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT. HE TOURED ALL OVER INDIA AND SPOKE TO THE PEOPLE.



TILAK BY THEN HAD COME TO BE REVERED AS LOKAMANYA* BY PEOPLE ALL OVER INDIA. WHEN HE WENT TO LUCKNOW TO ATTEND THE CONGRESS SESSION, FOLLOWING THE UNIFICATION OF THE MODERATES AND NATIONALISTS, HE WAS TAKEN OUT IN PROCESSION.



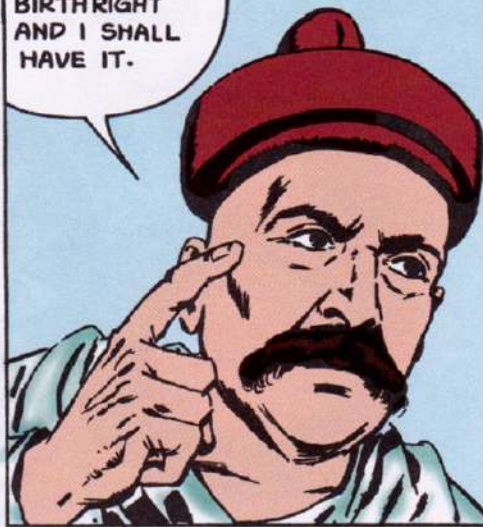
* RESPECTED BY THE PEOPLE

SOME ENTHUSIASTIC YOUTHS UNHARNESSED THE HORSES AND DREW THE CARRIAGE THEMSELVES.

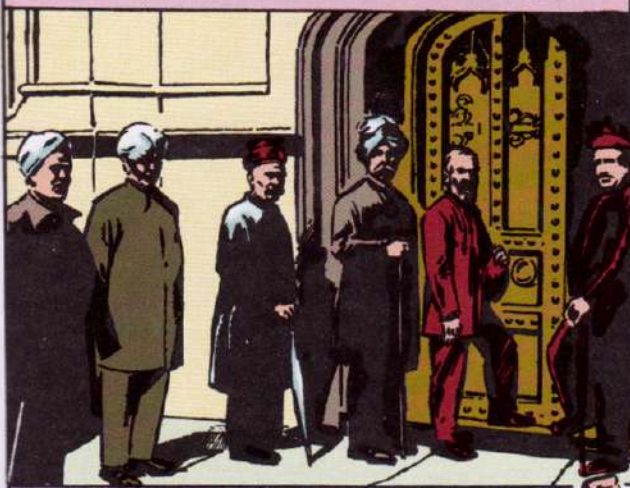


AT THE LUCKNOW CONGRESS —

SWARAJ IS MY BIRTHRIGHT AND I SHALL HAVE IT.



LATER, TILAK VISITED ENGLAND TO PRESENT INDIA'S CASE FOR HOME RULE...



... AND WON MANY FRIENDS, NOTABLY FROM THE LABOUR PARTY.

ON AUGUST 1, 1920, EXACTLY EIGHT MONTHS AFTER HIS RETURN TO INDIA, TILAK DIED. BUT THE CAUSE FOR WHICH HE FOUGHT WAS TAKEN UP BY MILLIONS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN.

BRITISHERS, QUIT INDIA!



AND TILAK'S LIFELONG STRUGGLE AT LAST BORE FRUIT ON AUGUST 15, 1947, WHEN INDIA BECAME INDEPENDENT.